Mike and Melissa Episode 32: Mike Goes Crazy Over "Mike Goes Crazy" Part 1- Mike Hits the Wall... Also Happy 2nd Anniversary!!!

By

Mike Chenoweth

SCENE 1- EXT. NORTHERN MICHIGAN, 9/1/2012, 5PM

I’m biking with a bunch of other people on the DALMAC, including my DAD and my UNCLE. We’re going gradually up a tree-lined hill under the light of of a 5pm Indian Summer sun. I’m lagging behind a bit. DAD looks back.

DAD
Do you need us to stop?

MIKE
No, keep going!

DAD
Hey Bill, I think Mike needs to stop.

MIKE
NO! I can do it!!!

DAD
Hey, I’m just a little worried because you barely made it yesterday, AND you messed up your knee-

MIKE
I’m fine I said! We’ve already been slowed down enough today, let’s finish already before the sun goes down!

DAD
Alright, fine. Just don’t collapse in another ditch and get mad because everything tastes like salt.

MIKE
I won’t.

I continue to lag back a bit. MEL comes up in her scooter.

MELISSA
Y’know, I know your adrenaline’s going and all, but you don’t need to get all bent outta shape at your poor ol’ dad. The guy’s just worried about you, and rightfully so.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE
He doesn’t think I can do it!

MELISSA
Well, you gotta admit, living off bags of chips on the Downriver set and not being able to exercise kinda took the wind out of your sails. That and you’ve never ridden 90+ miles in a day, and you’ve just done it two and 8/9 times in a row. On a bum knee no less.

MIKE
I just gotta do another 10 miles... and then one more day tomorrow... OH GOD I CAN’T DO THIS!!!

MELISSA
Yes you can. All those things I was saying make what you’ve already done all the more impressive. I’m just sayin’ don’t get all mad at your dad. If Dr. Seuss wanted you to get mad at your dad he wouldn’t have called it "Hop on Pop", he would’ve called it "Mad at Dad".

MIKE
...So I’m supposed to hop on him then?

MELISSA
Well not while on your bike. That’d just end all sorts of poopy.

DAD
So... is this hill supposed to be the dreaded "wall" that’s been so hyped up? Because I’m not impressed-

We turn the corner and a massive, 22-grade hill awaits us (that’s a lot!). I see it and I decide to empty the tank.

DAD
Mike, you’re not supposed to be doing this-

MIKE
DON’T TELL ME WHAT I CAN’T DO!!!

DAD
But... I’m your dad...

I push forward, sweatin’ and wheezin’ all the way up. MELISSA stays right in front of me, going backwards on her scooter.

MELISSA
You can do it. You can do it, Mike. I know you have it in you. I believe in you. I love you. Just keep pedalling a little longer...

I stop for a fraction of a second.

MELISSA
Don’t give up! I know it hurts, but think of how good it’ll feel to get up! Here, serpentine!

She leads me in a serpentine motion, allowing me to avoid the steepest angle of the hill. Eventually I see the end in sight and push for it.

MELISSA
Almost there! Just a little further! I love you so much!!!

I slow my pedaling to a virtual stop, realizing I’ve made it. There’s a few other bikers and various bystanders applauding me. I get off my bike and pound my chest and shout in victory. MEL leans in and gives me a big kiss.

MELISSA
You did it baby! I knew you could. You can do anything.

MIKE
Yeah... I guess I can...

DAD comes up, pushing his bike (he didn’t finish). He gives me a congratulatory man-hug.

DAD
Well, I’m sorry I doubted you.

MIKE
It’s okay. But hey, just remember, I can do ANYthing!

I get back on my bike and start pedalling super slowly. A group of college-age dudes, all shirtless, come up and try to hand me a can of PBR.

MIKE
Aw, only a PBR? Fine, I guess I'll take it-

I reach out for it and fall over. Everyone gets real quiet. How embarrassing!

MELISSA
You can do ANYthing alright! You can even reach out for a beer and fall down intentionally JUST for the sake of making sure you maintain at least a semblance of humility after your big accomplishment... that's what you meant to do right?

MIKE
TOTALLY!!!

INTRO SEQUENCE!!!

SCENE 2- INT. LAKE SHORE HOTEL, 9/3/2012, 11AM

I'm sittin' there in the hotel's hot tub with LIZ and ZACK.

MIKE
Ahh... nothin' like a hot tub on Mackinac Island after a 4-day, 322 mile bike ride. Actually, it was more like 340 after the wrong turn we made, but who's counting anyways?

ZACK
Yeah... I don't think I could ever do that. No interest in joining your dad for a few more laps around the island though?

MIKE
...No thanks. For one thing, my knee is pretty thoroughly fucked. I can barely bend it.

LIZ
Well if you can still walk, Zack and I are going to check out the island a bit if you care to join us. He's never been to the butterfly house, so we're gonna change that, aren't we Zackary?

ZACK
Uh... I guess so.

MIKE
You know, part of me thinks I should feel weird about you guys being here considering this is where you got married to what's his face... but I don't! So...

Uncomfortable pause, as I realize the dumbness of what I just said.

LIZ
...So are you coming or what?

MIKE
I think I'll stay here for a bit. I'll meet up with you guys later maybe.

LIZ
K. Bye loser.

The two of them depart the pool area. MEL poofs in, in her bathing suit.

MELISSA
Man, why'd ya have to bring up what's his face?

MIKE
I dunno! All I said was that I DIDN'T feel weird about it. But now I kinda do...

MELISSA
Pshah! That's why you let things like that stay in the past where they belong. Like that atrocious performance by Michigan against Alabama.

MIKE
Yeah, about that-

MELISSA
IN THE PAST I SAY!!! Besides, I didn't even play in that game so don't point the finger at me.

MIKE
I wasn’t. Still, I was so excited for this season and now it’s already in the toilet.

MELISSA
Blah. Seasons aren’t defined by one game. Besides, you and I have more important things to worry about right now.

MIKE
Like what?

MELISSA
Well, first off, how’s your knee?

MIKE
Stiff and painful!

MELISSA
Like an erection full of pine needles?

MIKE
...Not exactly...

MELISSA
Well, either way that’s a bummer. Second, how’re your little cuts and bruises from that fall?

MIKE
Still painful and gross lookin’!

I reveal some bruised-up ribs and a cut on my elbow.

MELISSA
Double bummer! And thirdly... we should start thinking about your big animation project for this upcoming semester!!!

MIKE
Oh right, my big 22-minute epic that’ll serve as the first of hopefully many episodes to come based on my funny little life and how a certain funny little lady fits into that.

MELISSA
That’s the one! Though I don’t know if I’d go so far as to call me "little"...

MIKE
Can I still call you a funny lady?

MELISSA
...I’ll accept this.

Smooch.

MELISSA
Actually that gives me with a nice little segue into my famous "shaggy dog" joke. See, my old neighbors back in Nice had this shaggy dog-

MIKE
Wait a minute...

MELISSA
I’M NOT DONE WITH MY JOKE!!!

MIKE
Sorry, but I just realized something kind of important... HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO A 22-MINUTE ANIMATION BY MYSELF?!?!? ESPECIALLY WITH MY LIMITED ARTISTIC ABILITIES?!?!?!?!?! OH GOD, ALL IS LOST!!!

MELISSA
All is NOT lost, Mike. Shoot, it’s like yesterday. If you can bike all the way up here from Lansing in 4 days, why can’t you make an animation in 4ish months?

MIKE
Because-

MELISSA
Because nothing!

She gets close and looks me in the eye.

MELISSA
You can do anything, baby. I believe in you, now YOU just have to believe in you too.

Smooch.

MELISSA
That said, you may want to consider making some compromises-

MIKE
You’re right! I can do this! I can do ANYTHING!!!

I jump up out of the hot tub and strike a dramatic pose!

MIKE
Melissa, I’m going to make the best damn animation the world has ever seen! Either that or I’ll die trying-

My knee gives out and I fall back into the hot tub.

MELISSA
Careful with those dramatic poses. Don’t wanna die before we actually start the dang project, do you?

MIKE
I CAN’T HELP IT!!! I’M JUST SO DRAMATIC!!!

I attempt another dramatic pose, but I just wind up with a faceful of water.

MELISSA
If that’s what you wanna call it...

SCENE 3- INT. N QUAD ELEVATOR, 9/10/2012, NOON

I’m in the elevator, still nursing my knee. I have my backpack and some goodies in a folder that I’m holding. MEL emerges from my bag, because she’s in there for some reason.

MELISSA
Alright! Off to have your first official meeting about your project with your supervisor! Exciting, ain’t it?

MIKE
...Sure...

MELISSA
Oh, "sure", he says. It’s no big deal. It’s not like this is quite possibly the BIGGEST THING YOU’VE DONE IN YOUR LIFE SO FAR!

MIKE
Yeah, but... I dunno. I feel weird. I had a weird dream last night...

SCENE 4- INT. SURREAL TRAIN, ???, NOONISH

I’m on some surreal train, full of all sorts of weird creatures here and there. I pass through the hallways and enter into a separate compartment, where PROF. MCNAMARA is seated already, dressed in 1900’s gentleman’s attire. Oh and for good measure I’m in my skunk form. Because I like being in my skunk form if you haven’t figured out by now.

PROF. MCNAMARA
Ah, nice to see you again, good sir. Have a seat.

I shake his hand and sit down.

MIKE
Gladly. Thank you, Professor McNamara.

PROF. MCNAMARA
So I had a chance to review your proposal...

MIKE
Yes? And what did you think?

PROF. MCNAMARA
Well, let me put it this way. You’re the equivalent of a reverse vegetable in a dill pickle garden.

MIKE
(laughing)
Yes, well I’ve heard that one before.

PROF. MCNAMARA
I sincerely doubt that. You’re also like one of those new automobiles that are all the rage these days. And the thing about those is you can like the car, and you can like
(MORE)

PROF. MCNAMARA (cont'd)
the driver... but you just hate the sound of it's horn.

MIKE
...You didn't like it, did you?

MCNAMARA sighs and pulls out numerous pieces of paper, all eviscerated with pen markings.

PROF. MCNAMARA
There's no good way to put this. It was just horrible. There were mistakes on every single page, and quite frankly I don't think it can be salvaged.

He leans in.

PROF. MCNAMARA
I really don't think you should continue with this project.

MIKE
...But it's my life's work! I have to do this!

MCNAMARA transforms into a really terrifying demonic creature, towering above me. Suddenly the background fades to black, leaving us alone in this expressionistic table floating in foreboding darkness.

DEMON MCNAMARA
FOOL! YOU WILL NEVER SUCCEED!!!

SCENE 3 AGAIN

MIKE
And from there it just got kinda weird...er. I'm pretty sure at one point I was Rigby from "Regular Show" for some reason... anyways, that's what's up with me.

MELISSA climbs up out of my bag and perches on top of my head.

MELISSA
Oh, Mike. I just love all the crazy little things that come out of your head.

MIKE
...Well, I love some of them anyways.

MELISSA
Aw.

She manages to do some crazy acrobatic thing where she gives me an upside-down kiss while balancing atop my head. She leaps down.

MIKE
Still, what if he skewers it and I have to scrap everything I have?

MELISSA
Just relax, that’s not gonna happen. I’m sure it’ll be fine.

I look at her, her face full of reassurance.

SCENE 5- INT. N QUAD HALLWAY, 9/10/2012, 12:30PM

MEL is leaning up against the wall next to the door of PROF. MCNAMARA’S office. She looks down the hall and sees a LIZARD MAN.

MELISSA
Sup, lizard man.

LIZARD MAN
Sup, skunk lady.

They just kinda nod and go back to hangin’ out. I emerge from the office, looking like I’ve seen a ghost. We walk down the hall, though I’m still limping.

MELISSA
Uh oh. Did he turn into a demon?

MIKE
No. He liked it in fact... BUT HE WANTS ME TO SHORTEN IT!!!

MELISSA
So?

MIKE
Melissa, I write all my episodes to fill a 22-minute time slot! I’ll have to remove so much, it won’t be the same thing!

MELISSA
Oh, I’m sure you can cut back on my over indulgent clever-for-the-sake-of-being-clever dialogue.

MIKE
But I love your dialogue!

MELISSA
YOU DO???

Big ol’ lick.

MELISSA
Well, if you like it that much I guess keep it. Keep it all! But you really should figure out a way to get it at least a little shorter, just so you don’t bite off more than you can chew.

MIKE
...I suppose I could trim a few things down. Combine scenes, do this and that...

MELISSA
There ya go! See? This is all part of the process. Everything’ll be fine. See you later, lizard man!

LIZARD MAN
Later.

MIKE
...What?

SCENE 6- INT. MIKE’S APARTMENT, 9/18/2012, 9PM

I’ve got a bunch of papers and my pencil atop my makeshift light table (a coffee table with a light under it). MEL is on the couch.

MIKE
Well, I got it down to 14 pages. I think I’m finally ready to do this!

MELISSA
Alright! DO IT!!!

MIKE
I’M GONNA DO IT!!! Here starts the first keyframe of the rest of my life...

I start drawing. 10 days later...

SCENE 7- INT. MIKE’S APARTMENT, 9/28/2012, 12AM

MEL walks in from the kitchen, observing the catastrophe that is my life. There are crinkled up and scribbled out pages all over the place, and I look like I haven’t slept in my whole life.

MELISSA
So... how’s it going?

MIKE
AWFUL!!! ALL THESE DRAWINGS LOOK HORRIFIC!!! I’M NOT EVEN CLOSE TO FINISHED AND I NEED TO GET STARTED ON ACTUALLY ANIMATING SOON!!! ALL IS LOST!!!

MELISSA
Hmm... maybe you should take a break?

MIKE
ARE YOU KIDDING??? I CAN’T STOP NOW!!! I WILL NEVER TAKE A BREAK AGAIN!!!

MELISSA
Uh... you do know what day it is, don’t you?

MIKE
The day I realized the futility of all my efforts and decided to become a doctor like the rest of my family-

MELISSA
It’s my birthday/our anniversary.

MIKE
...Oh... HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY! This episode is my gift to you, though unfortunately it also comes with my insanity so...

MELISSA
Man... didn’t you learn your lesson last year about NOT going insane when coming up with your gift ideas for me?

MIKE
I GUESS NOT!!!

MELISSA
WELL... I GUESS I’M GONNA HAVE TO SHAKE MY HEAD AT YOU AGAIN!

MIKE
YOU WOULDN’T DARE!!!

Sure enough, she does. And once again, I’m devastated and I stand, overcome with it all.

MIKE
THE SHAKES!!! MY KNEE!!! THIS PROJECT!!! EVERYTHING!!!

I keel over.

COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!

SCENE 8- INT. MIKE’S BEDROOM, 9/28/2012, 1AM

I’m sitting in my bed, blankets wrapped around, still overcome. MEL comes up and comforts me.

MELISSA
Sweetie, come on now. I spared you from my worst shakes.

MIKE
I know, but I’m just so... OVERCOME!!! How am I gonna get this done?

MELISSA
You’ll find a way. Here, for now, let’s just not worry about it. Let’s have a nice night just to ourselves. No project, no distractions, just us and our love.

MIKE
...Well, that is kind of what it’s all about in the end, ain’t it?

MELISSA
I’d sure like to think so.

She moves in and pretty soon we’re makin’ love. Move ahead to the end.

MIKE
I love you so much, Melissa.

I lick her neck.

MELISSA
I love you too, baby.

Return lick.

MIKE
I’m sorry I didn’t remember it was your b-day/our anniversary right away.

MELISSA
It’s okay, it’s not actually all that big of a deal to me. Every day with you is special to me.

MIKE
Heh, gay.

MELISSA
You’re gay!

Smooch.

MELISSA
But seriously Mike, that does bring up a good point. I don’t want you losing yourself on this project and forgetting about everything that actually makes it special in the process. Know what I mean?

MIKE
Yeah... still, I wanna really challenge myself and do this, if for no other reason than to show myself that I can.

MELISSA
That’s fine with me, just remember to take care of yourself, alright?

MIKE
Okay.

Another freakin’ smooch.

MELISSA
Good.

MIKE
So... did you get me Mike and Melissa Season 3 on DVD for our anniversary this year?

MELISSA
As a matter of fact, I did!

She pulls a DVD box set out of thin air and gives ’em to me.

MELISSA
I like this season, even if it’s a little fluffy compared to the first two.

MIKE
The whole dang thing’s fluffy.

MELISSA
Not ALL of it! Season 4 is pretty heavy.

MIKE
Wait... what-

MELISSA
Oh, nothing.

MIKE
...Well, let’s skip ahead to the season finale. I wanna get this over with already.

MELISSA
That’s not how it works, sweet stuff.

MIKE
MAN!!! WHY CAN’T MY LIFE JUST BE LIKE A DVD THAT I CAN JUST SKIP AROUND???

MELISSA
You mean like in "Click" with Adam Sandler?

MIKE
Ugh... never mind.

SCENE 9- INT. MLB ROOM 402, 10/02/2014, 3:30PM

MEL and I, along with Prof. Kligerman and a bunch of other students, are in that classic classroom watching one of those old Disney sentimental shorts. "The Old Mill" maybe? Sure.

MIKE
Now THIS is what I want my animation to be. Look at this. So fluid, so much work put into every little detail... sheer mastery.

MELISSA
That’s what you get when you hire out the best of the best.

MIKE
And what do I got? Some lousy thingy that barely captures any of these artistic principles.

MELISSA
Well, for one thing, it’s kinda hard to focus on that when you’re the only one doing EVERYTHING.

MIKE
No excuse! This short had only like three animators working on it.

MELISSA
Three animators working on a seven-minute short is still VERY different than one animator working on a 15-minute one.

MIKE
I guess... that doesn’t change the fact that I still can’t draw for crap.

MELISSA
Well... artists are allowed to improve over time. Besides, you can’t expect to learn to draw great overnight. Not at this point-

MIKE
BUT I WANNA!!! I’M SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING!!! RIGHT???

MELISSA
Oh, Mike... I guess that anniversary resolution to NOT freak out about your project hasn’t really taken effect, has it?

MIKE
...I made a resolution to do that?... That doesn’t sound like a resolution I’d make...

MELISSA
Not one that you’d stick to, anyways...

The lights come up. PROF. KLIGERMAN addresses the class.

PROF. KLIGERMAN
Thanks, projector person. Wasn’t that something? Really beautiful stuff, wasn’t it? So again, by the late 30’s shorts like this were becoming pretty commonplace from Disney studios. The stylistic change is pretty evident from their earlier stuff like "Steamboat Willy", as there’s more of a focus on fluidity of movement, artistic perfection, sentimentality and possibly most important the suggestion of depth aided by their patented multilayer glass panel. All of these contribute to an increased sense of emotional investment. Do you guys agree? Wasn’t your heart straining when that quail or whatever had to protect her eggs from getting crushed by the turning cog? Mine certainly was.

Murmurs of agreement.

PROF. KLIGERMAN
It is kind of unfortunate that emotional manipulation was being used to get you to throw away your money to support an anti-semitic megalomaniac who sympathized with

(MORE)

PROF. KLIGERMAN (cont'd)
the backwards ideology of the antebellum South. Seriously, did you guys read that chapter about "Song of the South" yet? And how at the premiere in Atlanta Walt addressed the Southern aristocracy in his Mickey Mouse voice? Makes me fuckin' sick. [intimidating Mickey] "Hoho, it's nice to see you all! The south will rise again, oh boy it will! We gotta put the black man back in his place!"

Laughs.

PROF. KLIGERMAN
But we'll cover that more next week. What was I gonna say before... Oh yeah! Much like a large number of early avant-garde filmmakers, a lot of early animators were very much AGAINST this representational form that Disney showcased, claiming that it went against the principles of animation as an art form based on the exploration of form, movement, and abstraction. Now let's jump ahead a bit to the 1960's and observe a very different brand of animation, as well as a different brand of storytelling. This is "The Hole" by John (and Faith) Hubley, who helped contribute to a number of UPA shorts such as "Rooty Toot Toot" and "Gerald McBoing Boing". The dialogue is all an improvised conversation between jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie and actor George Matthews. It's quite a trip, we'll discuss it after. Whenever you're ready, projector person.

The lights go down and "The Hole" comes up.

MIKE
Now THIS is what I want my animation to be like.

MELISSA
So basically you want your animation to be-

MIKE
NOT WHAT I HAVE NOW!!!

SCENE 10- INT. MIKE’S LIVING ROOM, 10/02/2012, 9PM

I’m sitting at my compy, tablet in my lap, ready to rock out. MEL is observing me.

MELISSA
So?

MIKE
So so! I feel weirdly inspired from class today.

MELISSA
Weird how you actually feel inspired and like you’ve learned something from a class, isn’t it?

MIKE
It really is! But I’ve learned to accept my art for what it is and stop comparing it to other works. It is what it is, and at this point I just gotta focus on doing the best job I can with the animation!

MELISSA
That’s awesome baby!

Cheek kiss.

MIKE
That and I don’t really have a choice at this point...

MELISSA
...Well there’s that too... So does that mean you’ve got all the keyframes done!

MIKE
Yup. I might add some inserts later, but I gotta get to animating.

MELISSA
Do it! Bring this shit to life!!!

MIKE
I will!!!

I start noodling on my tablet. 10 minutes later... I have my head buried in the couch.

MIKE
ALL IS LOST!!!

MELISSA
I REALLY wish you would stop worrying so much about this dang project already!

MIKE
So... you mean like put it off until the last minute?

MELISSA
That’s not at ALL what I mean-

MIKE
Because that sounds great to me!

I turn on the TV.

MIKE
I like TV.

MELISSA
That’s cool. Hey, you should make something that might wind up on TV one day then. Like your EPISODE!!!

MIKE
Yeah, but... this show’s already on.

MELISSA just kinda looks at me. I go back to watching.

MELISSA
YOU’RE A BUTTHEAD!!! YOU HAVE A BUTT FOR A HEAD!!!

SCENE 11- INT. MAGIC STICK, 10/16/2012, 11PM

CONVERGE is playing a set! It’s a good ol’ punky time and I’m right there in the middle of it, along with CHAD, ROY, TOPHER, and some of the other Detroiters. MELISSA crowd surfs over me.

MELISSA
I’M REALLY GLAD THIS SHOW CAME AROUND WHEN IT DID! THIS IS A GOOD STRESS RELEASE, ISN’T IT???

MIKE
YOU’RE TELLING ME!!!

MELISSA
BUT AFTER TONIGHT I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD START BUCKLING DOWN ON THE PROJECT! YOU HAVEN’T EXACTLY MADE ALL THAT MUCH PROGRESS THE LAST COUPLE WEEKS!

MIKE
MELISSA, I GOT IT! I HAVE IT TOTALLY UNDER CONTROL-

Suddenly someone reaches from behind me and chucks my hat into the abyss. I turn around and see SOME ASSHOLE smirking like he’s the cat’s pajamas. The little warning song from "Kill Bill" that comes on whenever Beatrix is about to kill someone starts playing. Before I know it I punch the guy in the mouth, sending him keeling back. I move to attack again, but some people pull me off him. I regain my wits as he whimpers away holding his jaw. I go retrieve my hat and walk off, while people just stare at me like WTF.

SCENE 12- EXT. MAGIC STICK, 10/16/2012, 11:30PM

I’m leaning over the balcony overlooking the city, still clearly steamed. MELISSA is giving me a backrub.

MELISSA
Now, I won’t say that I wouldn’t have done the same thing if it was MY hat-

MIKE
Damn straight. Nobody touches my hat but me... and you.

MELISSA
Aw, I’m so privileged.

Smooch.

MELISSA
Seriously though, are you even sure you hit the right person? Or that it wasn’t an accident?

MIKE
I dunno. His smug little smirk looked like he was just begging to be popped in the face.

MELISSA
Maybe so, but... you were always the guy who breaks up fights in mosh pits, not the one who starts them!

MIKE
Yeah, well, I guess Converge brings that out in people.

MELISSA
Maybe... I just hope that it doesn’t have to do with the stress this project is putting on you.

MIKE
Sweetie, I’m tellin’ you. I have it under control!

She looks at me, doubtingly.

SCENE 13- EXT. MIKE’S APARTMENT, 10/27/2012, 11PM

I’m in the parking lot, smashing my old air filter in the gravel. MELISSA is sitting on my car, facepalming something fierce.

MIKE
I DON’T HAVE ANYTHING UNDER CONTROL!!! ALL IS LO-

MELISSA
IF YOU SAY "ALL IS LOST" ONE MORE TIME I SWEAR TO GOD I AM GOING TO TRANSFORM INTO A MUTANT COCKROACH!!!

I stop. She hops off the car and comes up to me.

MELISSA
That’s better. Now, please, calmly tell me what’s the matter.

MIKE
EVERYTHING-

MELISSA
COCKROACH!!!

MIKE
...I’m so far behind now it’s not even funny and it looks like crap and there’s nothing I can do about it. On top of that my harddrive just died so that’ll set me back at least another week, on top of having to pay for a new computer. AND Michigan just lost AND our quarterback’s out for the year AND the Tigers are about to get swept out of the world series AND... EVERYTHING!!!

MELISSA
So why are you taking all that out on your air filter?

MIKE
Because it’s broken too.

MELISSA
Ah.

She gets all up close and personal.

MELISSA
So some bad things are happening that are outside your control. And some of those things are actively preventing you from making progress on your project which is driving you insane. But TRUST ME, Mike. It WILL get done, and when it does, you’ll be more proud of yourself than you’ve ever been in your life. This moment is like "the wall" on the Dalmac. You can give up and walk your bike, or you can push through and get to the top. So what are you gonna do?

MIKE
...Well, I don’t know how I’m gonna do this, but I have no choice but to try... Will you be there on your scooter to help push me along?

She poofs in her scooter and helmet.

MELISSA
Always.

MIKE
I love you, Melissa.

MELISSA
I love you too, hon.

Smooch.

MELISSA
So as for tonight... since we can’t really do much of anything what with your compy being fried, how about we go out and hang with the gang? When’s the last time you saw any of them anyways?

MIKE
...Not since I started this project...

MELISSA
Well, how about we get on that, eh?

I smile at her. And she smiles right back. Cut ahead to me in the car backing out. A loud "pop" emits as I realize I just ran over the remnants of my air filter.

MELISSA
...You didn’t pick up the wreckage of the filter, did you?

MIKE
Nope. And I’m pretty sure I got a flat... ALL IS LOS-

MEL turns into a hideous cockroach mutant, scaring the piss right outta me!

MIKE
NO!!! NOT YOU TOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Oh the misery of it all! OUTRO SEQUENCE!!!

Will I climb the wall or did I just run right into it? Find out next time! To be continued...